



National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners  
1101 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20005

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release:  
**Oct. 6, 2008**

Contact: Rob Thormeyer  
202-898-9382, [rthormeyer@naruc.org](mailto:rthormeyer@naruc.org)

### **Tennessee's Roberson Tapped to Lead National Panel on Gas Markets**

WASHINGTON-Tennessee Regulatory Authority Director Eddie Roberson will lead a national working group that seeks to learn more and offer potential policy resolutions to decisionmakers about the impact speculation in the natural gas markets may be having on consumers.

The working group is sponsored by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, a Washington-based association representing the State public service commissioners that regulate essential utility services such as energy, water, telecommunications, and transportation.

In this position, Director Roberson will oversee a group of five commissioners from other States in the Speculation in Natural Gas Markets Working Group. The group will focus on educating the broader NARUC membership on the issue and, eventually, offer policy resolutions to federal and State governments.

Although States do not have direct authority over the wholesale natural gas market, high gas prices impact the rates paid by the retail natural gas and electricity consumers State regulators serve.

"As a Director of the TRA, I understand the impacts that high gas prices have on consumers here in Tennessee," he said. "This Working Group will provide consumers with a tremendous service because it gives us the platform to focus on these issues and ensure that we are doing everything in our power to protect consumers locally and throughout the country."

The other members of the Working Group are: Commissioner Robert Keating, Massachusetts; Commissioner Cindy Lewis of Wyoming; Commissioner Monica Martinez of Michigan; and Commissioner Timothy Simon of California.

Director Roberson has served on the TRA since 1975, when it was known as the Public Service Commission. He was appointed as Chief of Consumer Services Division of the PSC and transferred to Nashville in 1989. He also served as the agency's executive director from 1995 to 1996. He was appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen in 2006 as director to the TRA and reappointed in 2008. He served as agency chairman in 2007-2008.

\*\*\*\*\*

*NARUC is a non-profit organization founded in 1889 whose members include the governmental agencies that are engaged in the regulation of utilities and carriers in the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. NARUC's member agencies regulate telecommunications, energy, and water utilities. NARUC represents the interests of State public utility commissions before the three branches of the Federal government.*

###